

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 PRS-01 ISO-00 PA-02 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07  
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O 020100Z FEB 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PDIP, ASEC, US, VM

SUBJECT:INDICTMENT FOR ESPIONAGE AND COMPROMISED DOCUMENTS:  
PRESS BRIEFING

FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF DEPARTMENT'S NOON  
BRIEFING FEBRUARY 1 AS IT RELATES TO ALLEGED ESPIONAGE ON  
BEHALF OF VIETNAM:

Q: IS SECRETARY VANCE GOING TO HAVE AMB. YOUNG RESPOND TO  
THE VIETNAMESE DENIAL AND THEIR CHARGE THAT THIS IS QUOTE  
ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S CONTINUING  
HOSTILITY AND A BLATANT FABRICATION, GROSS SLANDER AND  
OFFENSE?

A: WELL, I REALLY DON'T HAVE TO COMMENT ON WHAT WAS A  
FAIRLY EXPECTABLE RESPONSE FROM THAT MISSION. WE HAVE  
DECIDED TO PROTEST THIS CASE TO THE SRV UN MISSION IN NEW  
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YORK. WE ARE PROTESTING THE INVOLVEMENT OF SRV OFFICIALS IN  
ESPIONAGE DIRECTED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS THE  
EVIDENT ABUSE OF THE PRIVILEGE OF RESIDENCE UNDER THE 1947  
U.N. HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.

Q: COULD I FOLLOW THAT UP AND ASK WHAT WAS THE SECRETARY'S  
REACTION UPON LEARNING THAT MR. HUMPHREY HAD TOP SECRET

CLEARANCE.

A: WELL, LET ME SAY THAT I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO ALMOST ANY ASPECT OF THE CASE. FOR BOTH THE SAKE OF THE DEFENDANTS AND FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOVERNMENT I'M SIMPLY NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO COMMENT ON MANY ASPECTS OF THE CASE.

Q: IS ANY VIETNAMESE DIPLOMAT OR OFFICIAL GOING TO BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY?

A: THAT GENERAL QUESTION IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION AND I CAN'T GO BEYOND THAT AT THIS POINT.

Q: DOES THIS COUNTRY HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO DECLARE A UN DIPLOMAT PNG?

A: YES.

Q: HE CAN BE?

A: YES.

Q: I ASSUME BY VIRTUE OF THE FACT THAT YOU ARE PROTESTING THE INVOLVEMENT OF SRV OFFICIALS IN ESPIONAGE THAT YOU UNCLASSIFIED

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KNOW SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE INVOLVED.

A: I AM, QUITE LITERALLY, NOT GOING TO GO BEYOND WHAT I'VE SAID ALREADY.

Q: WHAT CONTACT DO WE HAVE WITH THAT DELEGATION? YOU SAY WE'RE PROTESTING IT. YOU MAKE IT SOUND AS IF WE'RE GOING TO PROTEST IT DIRECTLY TO THEM. DO WE HAVE ANY FORMAL CONTACT WITH THEM.

A: WE OF COURSE HAVE THE ABILITY TO DELIVER A PROTEST. AS TO HOW AND WHEN THE PROTEST IS GOING TO BE DELIVERED. AS TO HOW AND WHERE WE'RE GOING TO DO IT...WHEN WE'VE DONE IT OR WHEN THAT HAS FINALLY BEEN ALL PUT TOGETHER, I'D BE GLAD TO GET IT FOR YOU.

Q: WITH A LACK OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS THOUGH, CAN WE...

A: I'M NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ON POSSIBILITIES BUT THERE ARE PLACES WHERE THE TWO OF US CAN COME TOGETHER OR THERE ARE AGENCIES THROUGH WHICH THAT CAN BE HANDLED.

Q: CONTACTS WITH THE VIETNAMESE IN THE PAST HAVE BEEN IN PARIS. IS THERE ANY PLAN TO SAY ANYTHING TO THEM THERE?

A: AGAIN, AS TO HOW AND WHERE THE PROTEST WILL GO, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU ON THAT NOW. BUT I WILL.

Q: AND WHAT ARE THE MECHANICS OF HAVING A FOREIGN DIPLOMAT WITHDRAWN FROM NEW YORK? DO WE PROTEST TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE U.N.

A: WELL, AGAIN THAT'S ASKING ME TO GO A LITTLE FURTHER THAN I CAN GO RIGHT NOW. WE ARE EXAMINING THE GENERAL MATTER AND CLEARLY IT INVOLVES BOTH A NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS AND LAWS.  
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THERE WOULD BE MORE THAN JUST A RATHER SIMPLE ACT ON THE

ONE HAND...BUT IN ANY CASE, I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT SUBJECT OTHER THAN THAT WE'RE CONSIDERING IT.

Q: THIS SITUATION HAS ARISEN MANY TIMES IN THE PAST WITH OTHER COUNTRIES' DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED TO THE U.N. IS THERE A PROCEDURE FOR WORKING THROUGH THE U.N. TO GET RID OF THEM?

A: I'M REALLY NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO MUCH DETAIL ON THIS. LET ME JUST OBSERVE THAT I DON'T THINK I HAVE TO GIVE YOU A HISTORY LESSON ON WHAT YOU CAN RESEARCH BETTER THAN I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THIS CASE AND OTHERS YOU MAY HAVE IN MIND.

Q: COULD YOU PERHAPS TELL US WHEN MR. HUMPHREY RECEIVED HIS LAST SECURITY CLEARANCE?

A: NO. ASK USIA. THEY'LL BE GLAD TO TELL YOU. THAT'S REALLY THE PLACE FOR THAT KIND OF INFORMATION.

Q: DON'T THEY COME UNDER THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S SECURITY DEPARTMENT?

A: I'D BE PERFECTLY HAPPY TO TELL YOU. I DON'T HAVE HIS PERSONNEL FILE.

Q: BUT THIS IS A STATE DEPARTMENT...USIA DOESN'T HAVE ITS OWN SECURITY DEPARTMENT DOES IT?

A: I'M NOT AWARE OF THAT. ALL I'M SAYING IS THAT FOR  
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QUESTIONS ON MR. HUMPHREY THE PLACE TO GO IS USIA INsofar AS HIS PROFESSIONAL CAREER IS CONCERNED.

Q: THIS RAISES THE GENERAL QUESTION ABOUT SECURITY. THERE ARE THOSE THAT SAY THE SECURITY PROGRAM IS IN A SHAMBLES. WHAT PROTECTION IS THERE NOW THAT WOULD BAR THE EMPLOYMENT OF SECURITY RISKS? IS THERE ANY MECHANISM TO DETERMINE WHO IS A SECURITY RISK OR IS THERE ANY WAY MR. HUMPHREY OR SOMEONE LIKE HIM COULD HAVE BEEN DETECTED BY THE SYSTEM BECAUSE OF HIS ASSOCIATIONS OR CONTACTS AND SO ON?

A: I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO WAY OF ANSWERING THAT QUESTION AT THIS TIME.

Q: WELL, I'M ASKING YOU ABOUT THE GENERAL NATURE OF THE SECURITY PROGRAM AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

A: THERE ARE CLEARANCES...I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE ME A WRITTEN SET OF QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE ON HOW OUR SECURITY PROCESS OPERATES. I'LL BE GLAD TO HAND THAT OVER AND GET YOU AN ANSWER BACK.

Q: HOW WILL THIS AFFECT THE U.S.-VIETNAMESE RAPPROCHEMENT IN THE TALKS BEING HELD IN PARIS.

A: LET ME JUST ADD TWO THINGS ON THAT: I'M REALLY NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ON ANY EFFECT IT MIGHT HAVE. IN ANY CASE, NO FURTHER MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED IN THOSE TALKS. THEY ARE SIMPLY BETWEEN THE LAST TALKS AND NO PROJECTED TALKS.

Q: IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT A HIGH-RANKING MEMBER OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WENT TO NEW YORK TO PARTICIPATE IN A RALLY CONGRATULATING THE VIETNAMESE FOR WINNING, I WAS WONDERING IF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, PARTICULARLY THE SECRETARY, WILL REQUEST THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION  
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OFFICIALS, IN VIEW OF THIS, NO LONGER PARTICIPATE IN SUCH RALLIES?

A: YOU KNOW, I DON'T THINK THAT'S A SERIOUS QUESTION, BECAUSE...

Q: A VERY SERIOUS QUESTION, HODDING.

A: WELL I DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER FOR IT.

Q: YOU SAID THERE ARE NO FURTHER MEETINGS SCHEDULED IN  
PARIS ON THESE TALKS THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON. WAS THAT  
THE CASE PRIOR TO THESE ARRESTS?

A: YES. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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